

RANKING FACTORS FOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE FISHERIES PROJECTS

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Ideal projects will be responsive to the issues and information needs identified within the Regional Advisory Councils (see *Issues and Information Needs of the Federal Subsistence Fisheries Monitoring Program*). Projects should address the criteria listed below and must fully meet the first criteria to be eligible for federal subsistence funding.

1. **Federal Jurisdiction** – Issue or information needs addressed in projects must have a direct association to a subsistence fishery within a federal conservation unit.
2. **Conservation Mandate** – Risk to the conservation of species and populations that support subsistence fisheries and risk to conservation unit purposes.
3. **Allocation Priority** – Risk of failure to provide a priority to subsistence uses and risk that subsistence harvest needs will not be met.
4. **Data Gaps** – Amount of information available to support subsistence management (higher priority given where a lack of information exists).
5. **Role of Resource** – Importance of a species to a subsistence harvest (e.g., number of villages affected, pounds of fish harvested, miles of river) and qualitative significance (e.g., cultural value, unique seasonal role).
6. **Local Concern** – Level of user concerns over subsistence harvests (e.g., allocation – upstream vs. downstream, recreational use concerns, changes in size of fish).

TECHNICAL- SCIENTIFIC MERIT

Technical quality of the project design must meet accepted standards for information collection, compilation, analysis, and reporting. Excellent projects will have clear study objectives, appropriate sampling design, correct statistical analysis procedures, and specified progress and final reports.

PAST PERFORMANCE- ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERTISE

Investigators and their organizations should have demonstrated technical and administrative expertise to complete the project or have co-investigators or appropriate partnerships with other organizations to meet all requirements of the project. Projects must be non-duplicative with other projects. Principal and co-investigators should possess the expertise required to complete the project and have had successful experience with similar projects.

PARTNERSHIP- CAPACITY BUILDING

Projects must include appropriate partners and contribute to the capacities of agencies, local communities, and residents to participate in fishery resource management. Projects must have completed appropriate consultation about their project with local villages and communities in the area where the project is to be conducted (letters of support from local organizations add to the strength of a proposal). Investigators and their organizations should be able to demonstrate the ability to maintain effective local relationships and a commitment to capacity building.